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AMAR CHITRA KATHA

HARSHA

A GALLANT KING OF KANAUJ

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Script
Yagya Sharma
Anand Prakash Singh

Illustrations
Madhu Powle

Editor
Anant Pai

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ABOUT 1,400 YEARS AGO, THANESHWAR, A POWERFUL KINGDOM IN NORTHERN INDIA WAS RULED BY PRABHAKAR VARDHAN. DURING THIS PERIOD THE HUNS HAD STARTED HARASSING THE PEOPLE OF THANESHWAR. SO THE KING SENT HIS ABLE SONS TO PUNISH THEM.

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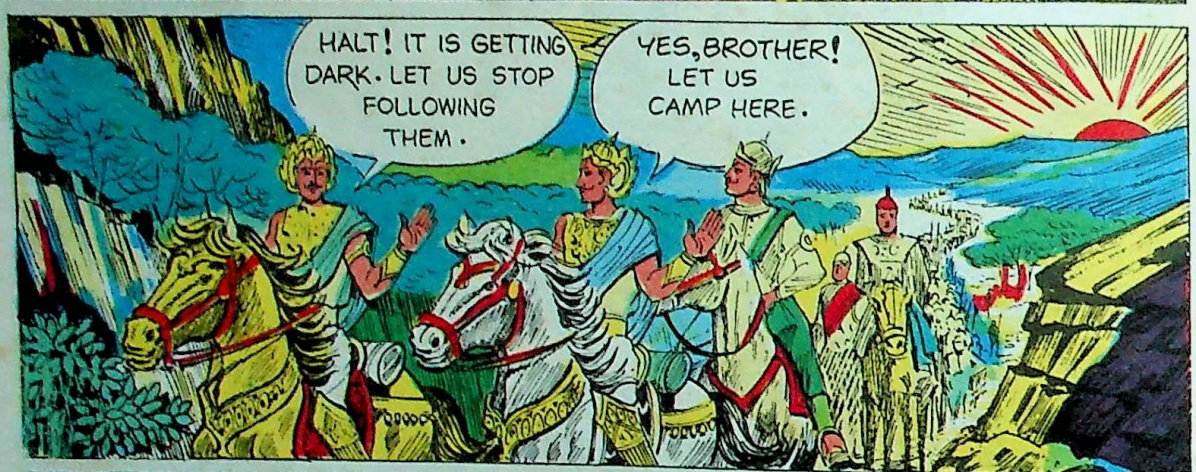

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RAJYASHRI, THEIR SISTER, WAS WORRIED. SHE TALKED TO HER HUSBAND GRAHAVARMAN, THE KING OF KANNAUJ.

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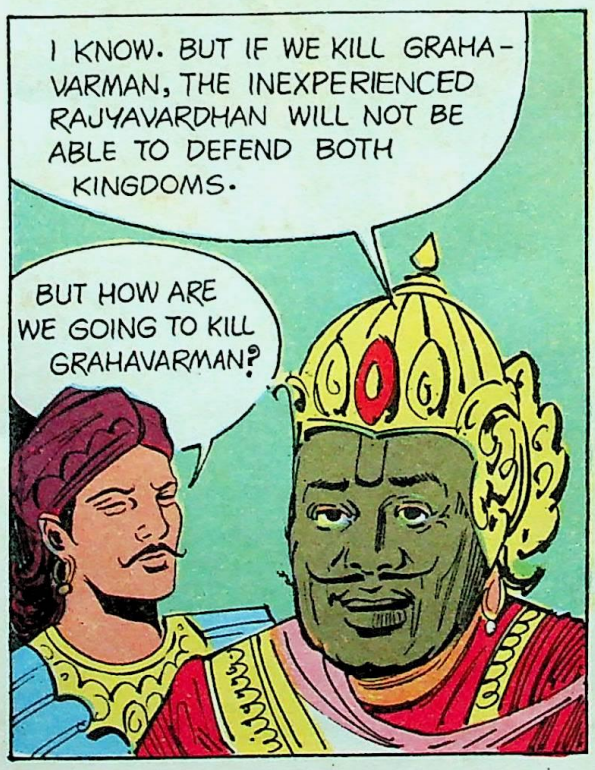
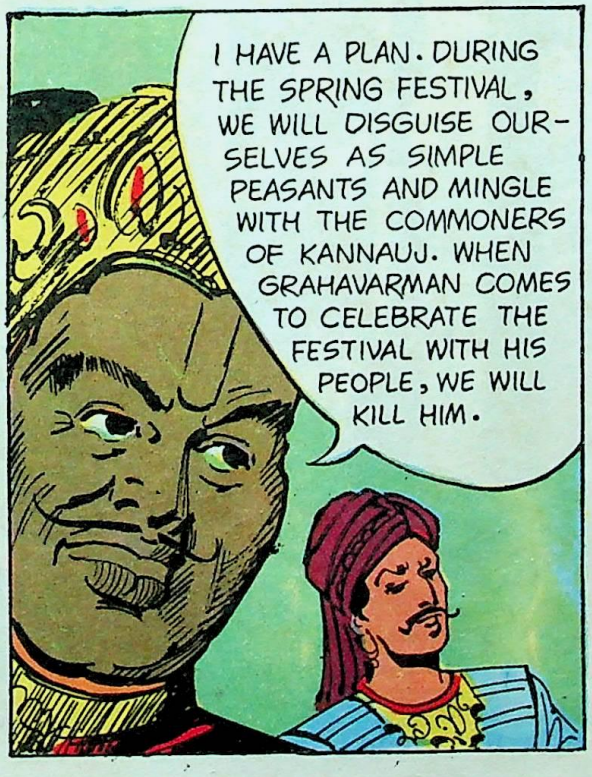
MEANWHILE, DEVGUPTA, THE GREEDY KING OF MALWA WAS BUSY PLOTTING.





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AFTER KILLING GRAHAVARMAN, DEVGUPTA FORCIBLY CARRIED RAJYASHRI WITH HIM.

HELP! HELP!

THE NEWS OF DEVGUPTA'S TREACHERY REACHED RAJYAVARDHAN.

MAHARAJ, KING DEVGUPTA OF MALWA, HAS CARRIED AWAY YOUR SISTER.

DEVGUPTA HAS INVITED HIS DEATH.

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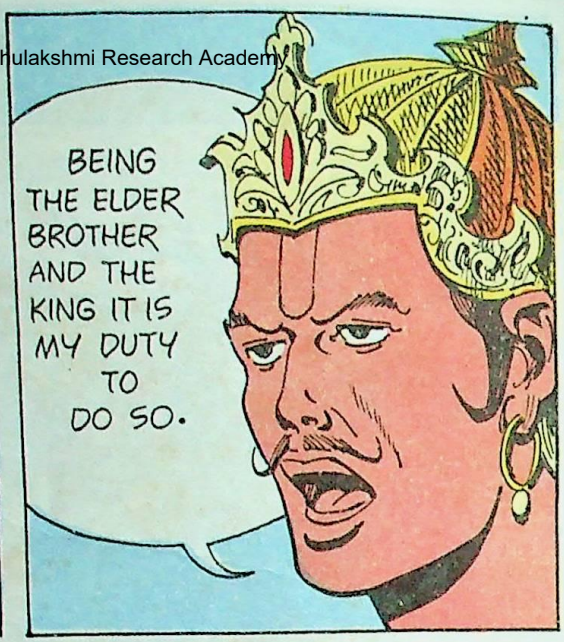

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THE SIGHTS IN THE PRISON DISTURBED RAJYASHRI.

THE PAINFUL CRIES OF OTHER PRISONERS AGONISED HER HEART AND SOUL.

OH, MY GOD!

WHILE RAJYASHRI WAS SUFFERING MENTALLY, DEVGUPTA WAS ENJOYING HIMSELF.

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JUST THEN DEVGUPTA RECEIVED A MESSAGE.

RAJYAVARDHAN IS PREPARING TO ATTACK US, SIR!

I EXPECTED THIS. GO AND CALL KING SHASHANK OF GAUD. I WANT TO TALK TO HIM.

VERY SOON DEVGUPTA WAS SCHEMING WITH SHASHANK.

I WILL SHARE HALF OF THE KINGDOMS OF THANE-SHWAR AND KANNAUJ WITH YOU IF YOU HELP ME.

I WILL. WHAT MUST I DO?

WIN RAJYAVARDHAN'S CONFIDENCE AND ACCOMPANY HIM IN HIS ATTACK ON ME.

WHEN THE BATTLE BEGINS, ATTACK RAJYAVARDHAN FROM THE REAR. ONCE HE IS DEAD, WE'VE AS GOOD AS WON.

YOUR PLAN IS EXCELLENT. WE SHALL DEFINITELY SUCCEED.

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SO, SHASHANK WITH HIS EVIL INTENTIONS MARCHED WITH RAJYAVARDHAN TOWARDS MALWA.

I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR YOUR HELP, KING SHASHANK. YOU SHALL ALWAYS BE MY MOST TRUSTED FRIEND.

MY PERSONAL GUARDS SHALL PROTECT YOU WHILE YOU FIGHT.

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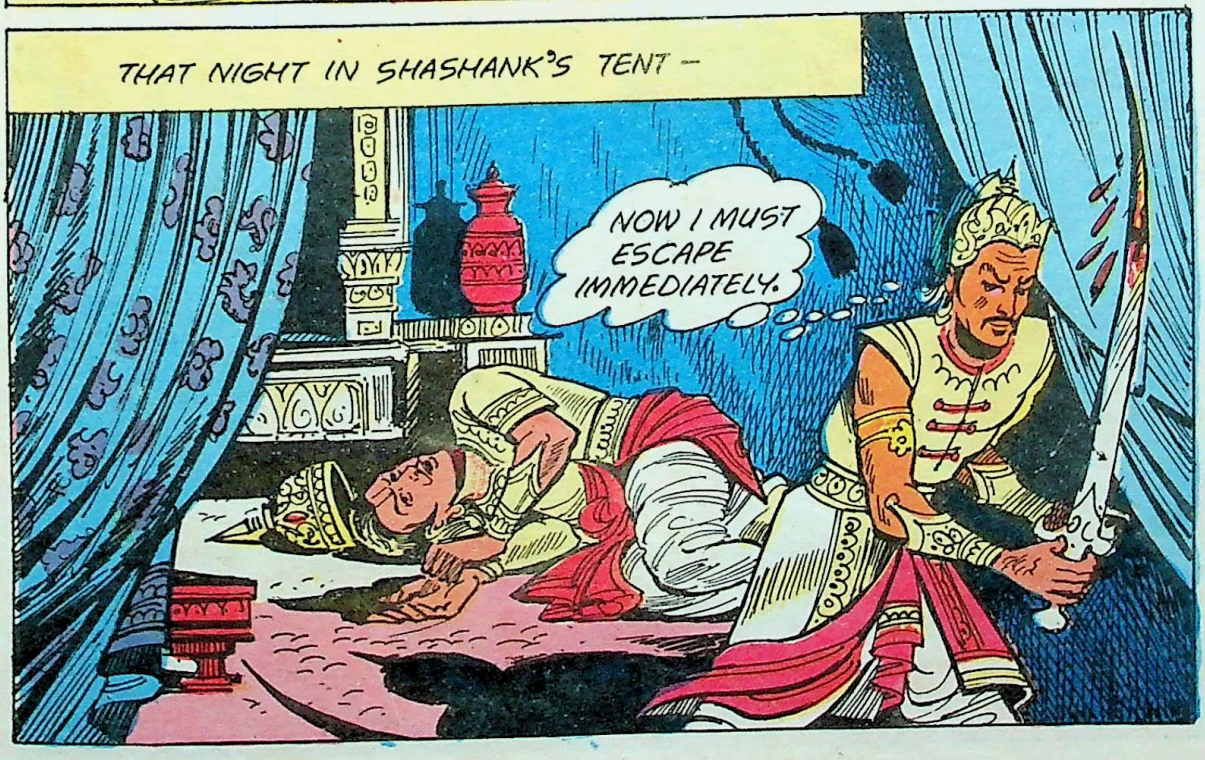

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IN THE COURT OF THANESHWAR –

SIR, MAHARAJ RAJYAVARDHAN HAS BEEN KILLED TREACHEROUSLY BY SHASHANK.

SHASHANK SHALL PAY FOR THIS!

AND SIR, MAHARANI RAJYASHRI HAS ESCAPED FROM THE PRISON BUT NOBODY KNOWS WHERE SHE HAS GONE.

SEND MESSENGERS IN ALL DIRECTIONS TO FIND HER.

HARSHA THEN MARCHED WITH A HUGE FORCE TO PUNISH KING SHASHANK.

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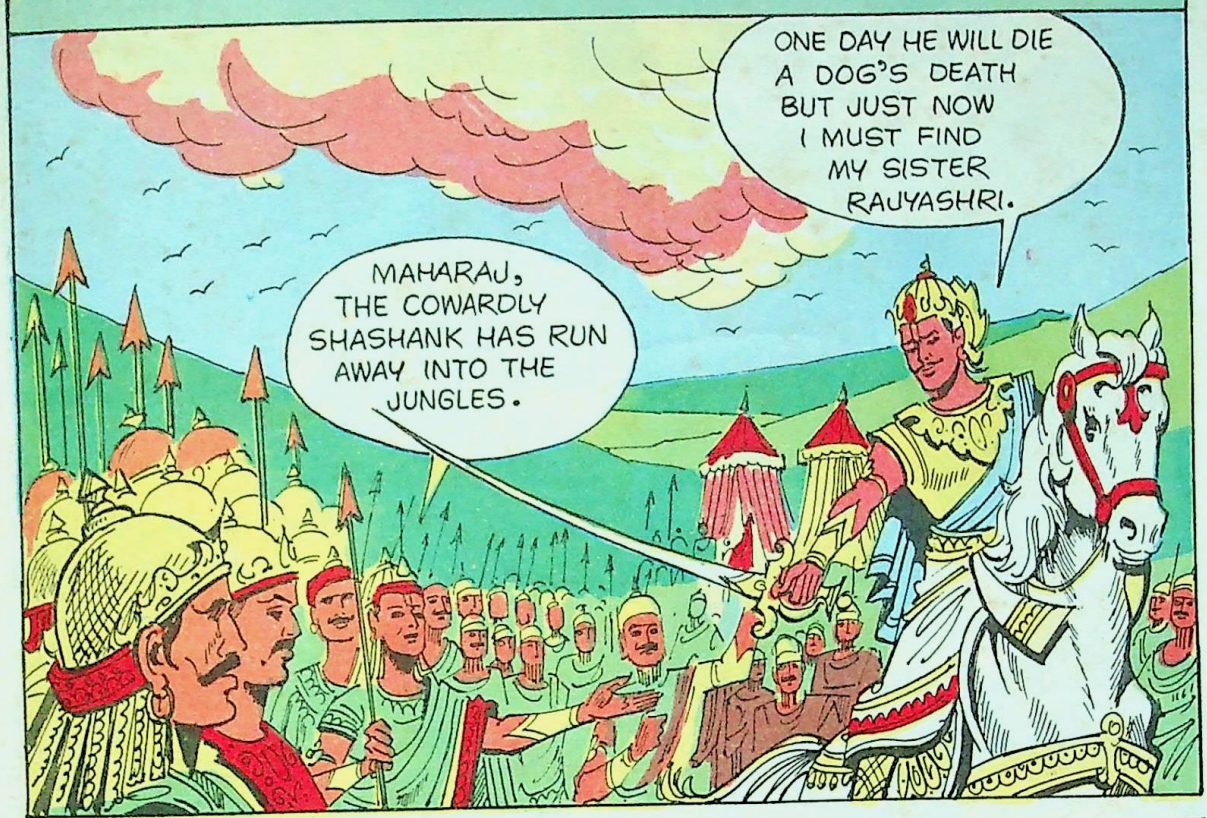
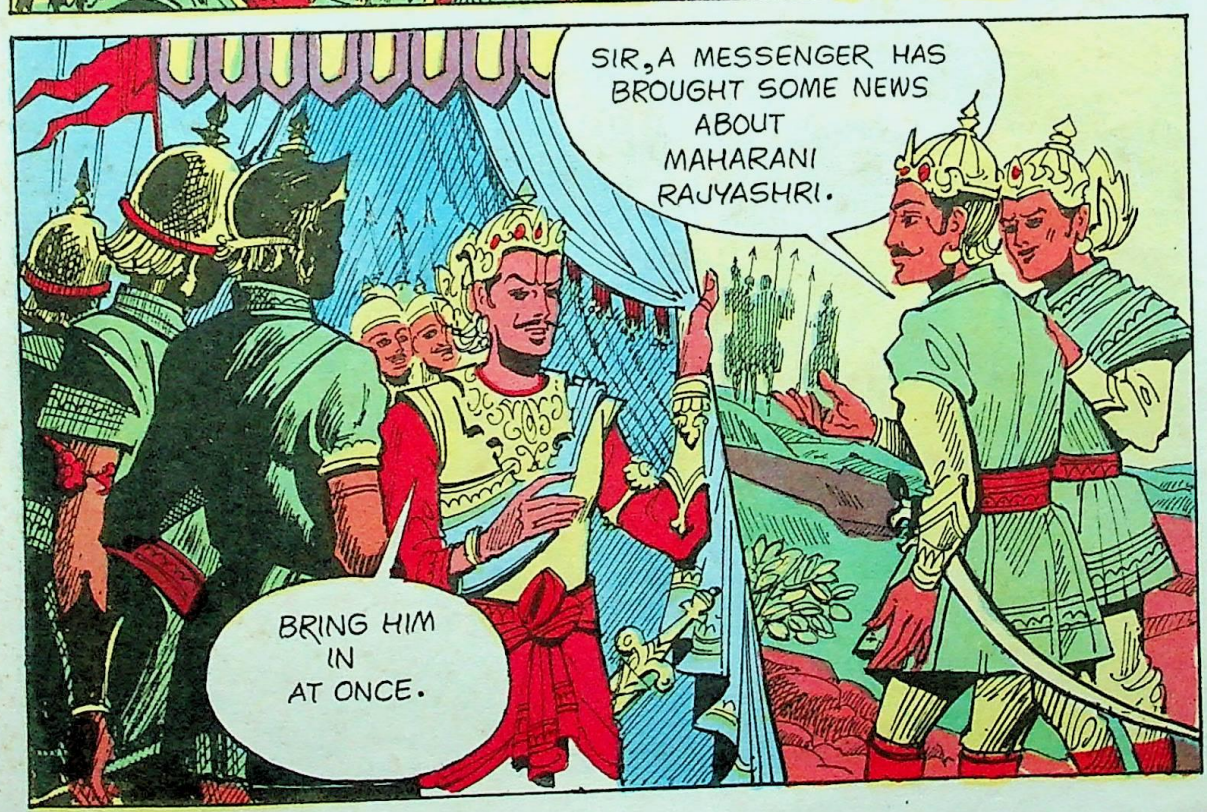
SHASHANK HAD NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOUNG HARSHA COULD ORGANISE SUCH A LARGE FORCE.





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AND VERY SOON HARSHA CONQUERED THE VARIOUS SMALL KINGDOMS TO BRING LASTING PEACE IN NORTHERN INDIA.

NOW THAT ALL THE KINGDOMS HAVE COME UNDER ONE FLAG, THERE WOULD BE NO MORE BATTLES BETWEEN THEM. POOR PEASANTS WILL LIVE IN PEACE AT LAST.

UNAWARE OF HARSHA'S PEACE-PLANS, THE GREAT SOUTH INDIAN KING, PULAKESHIN WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE RISING STRENGTH OF HARSHA.

MAHARAJ PULAKESHIN, HARSHA HAS WON KINGDOMS AS FAR AS KATHIAWAR. HE MAY ATTACK US ONE DAY.

WE MUST ATTACK BEFORE HE DOES.

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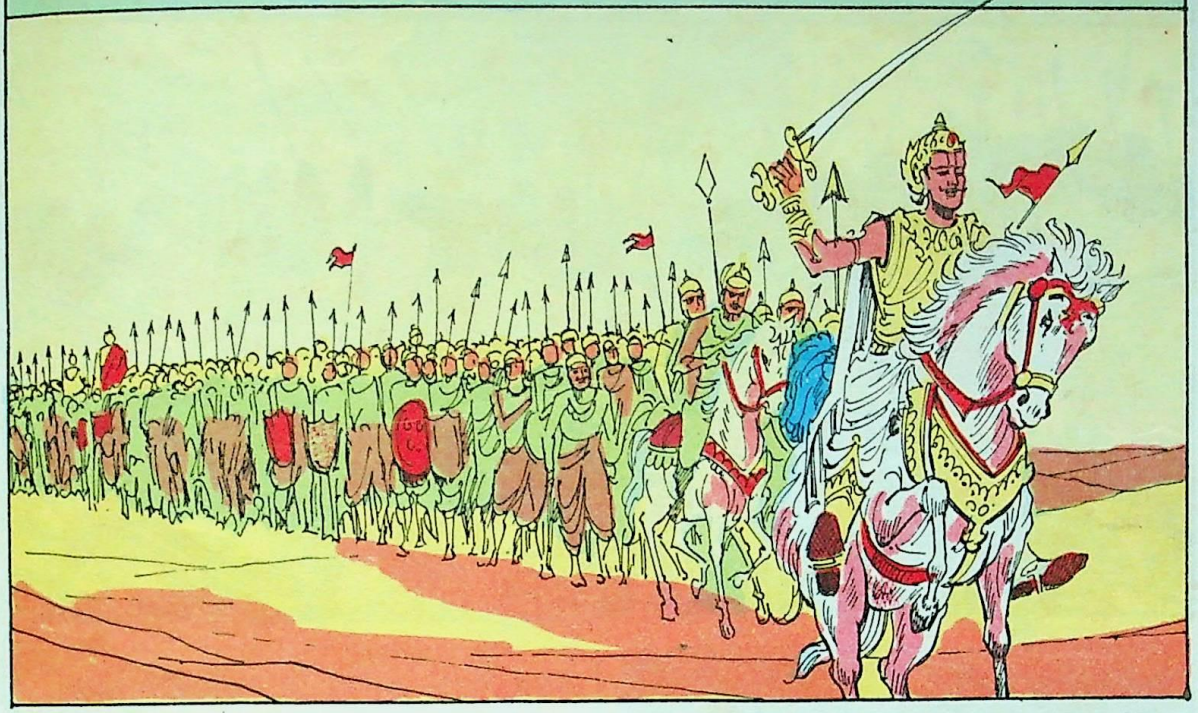
HARSHA WAS RETURNING HOME AFTER CONQUERING KATHIAWAR. HIS SOLDIERS WERE TIRED AND EAGER TO REACH HOME.



AND AT THAT MOMENT PULAKESHIN ATTACKED HARSHA.

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THE FIGHTING CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. LOSSES WERE HEAVY ON BOTH SIDES.

HARSHA'S TIRED SOLDIERS HAD TO RETREAT. HE WAS VERY SAD.

ALL THOSE MEN WERE KILLED FOR NOTHING.

SOMETIME LATER IN THANESHWAR-

MAHARAJ HARSHA, LET US ATTACK PULAKESHIN. THIS TIME WE ARE FULLY PREPARED TO CRUSH HIM.

I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS BLOOD-SHED.

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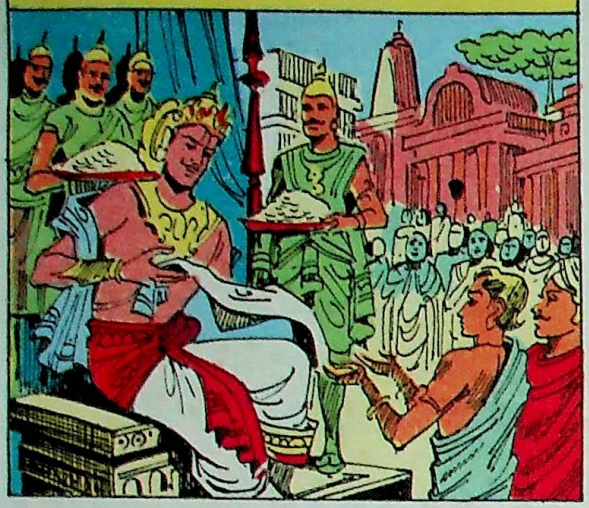
TO FULFIL HIS DREAM, HARSHA GAVE FINANCIAL HELP TO THE POOR.



HE APPOINTED PHYSICIANS TO TREAT THE SICK FREE OF COST.

HE HELPED STUDENTS TO PURSUE THEIR STUDIES.

DURING HIS TIME, TRADERS CAME FROM AS FAR AS CHINA.

PEOPLE PROSPERED.

AND FOLLOWERS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS LIVED IN PEACE AND HARMONY.

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DURING THIS PERIOD, HIUEN TSANG, THE FAMOUS CHINESE PILGRIM AND SCHOLAR CAME TO INDIA. AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME IN EASTERN INDIA, HE MET HARSHA.

MAHARAJ, A BUDDHIST MONK WANTS TO SEE YOU.

BRING HIM IN.

WELCOME, SCHOLAR HIUEN TSANG. I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.

MAHARAJ, I AM HONOURED.

SIR, I HAVE COME HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BUDDHIST RELIGION.

I HOPE, YOU FIND YOUR STAY COMFORTABLE

HIUEN TSANG STAYED IN INDIA FOR A FEW YEARS.

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DURING HIUEN TSANG'S STAY, HARSHA DECIDED TO HOLD A SEMINAR ON RELIGIONS.

EMINENT SCHOLARS OF HINDUISM, JAINISM AND BUDDHISM CAME TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR.

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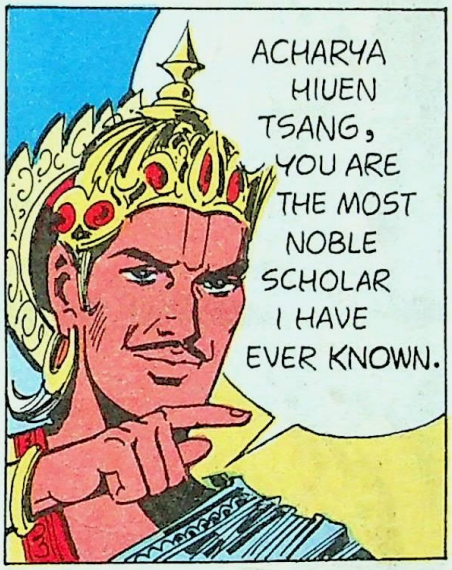
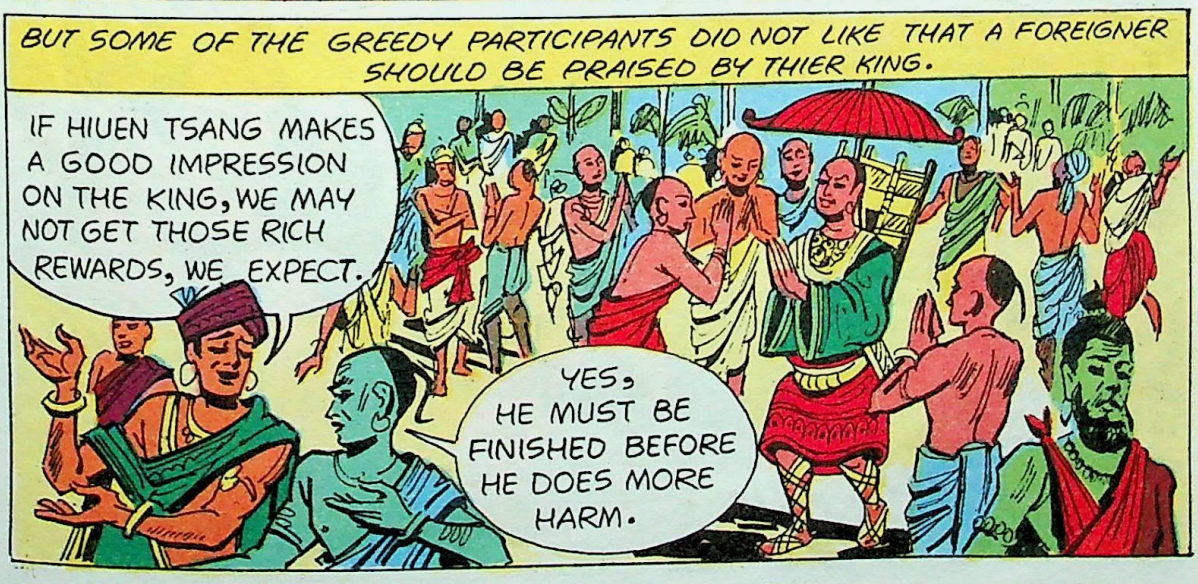
THE SEMINAR CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

HIUEN TSANG TOO PARTICIPATED IN THE SEMINAR.



BUT SOME OF THE GREEDY PARTICIPANTS DID NOT LIKE THAT A FOREIGNER SHOULD BE PRAISED BY THIER KING.



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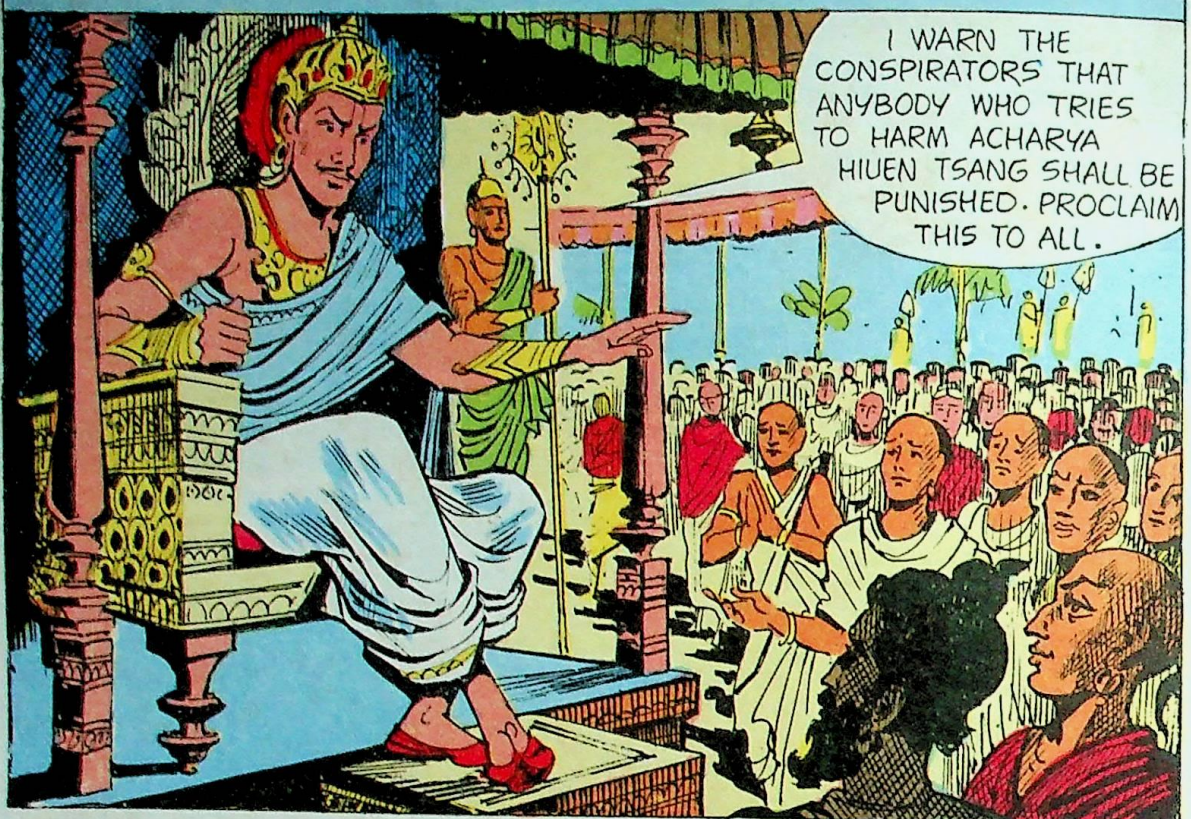
BUT THIS CONSPIRACY WAS REPORTED TO HARSHA IMMEDIATELY.

I WARN THE CONSPIRATORS THAT ANYBODY WHO TRIES TO HARM ACHARYA HIUEN TSANG SHALL BE PUNISHED. PROCLAIM THIS TO ALL.

I BELIEVE IN NON-VIOLENCE, THE POOR AND THE WEAK SHALL BE PROTECTED. THOSE WHO PREACH VIOLENCE SHALL PAY FOR IT WITH THEIR OWN LIVES.



AS A RESULT OF THIS STERN WARNING, NOBODY TRIED TO HARM HIUEN TSANG.

THE SEMINAR IS OVER. THE SCHOLARS SHOULD NOW BE PRESENTED WITH GIFTS.

THE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE, MAHARAJ!

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FROM THE NEXT DAY, HARSHA STARTED PRESENTING GIFTS TO THE SCHOLARS AND PRIESTS OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS.

THEN CAME THE TURN OF POOR PEASANTS.

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SOON THE GIFTS BROUGHT FOR DONATION WERE EXHAUSTED. BUT STILL MANY PEOPLE REMAINED WITHOUT GIFTS.

BRING ALL THE REMAINING WEALTH FROM THE ROYAL TREASURY.

AS YOU WISH, MAHARAJ.

THE ROYAL WEALTH WAS ALSO GIVEN AWAY BUT EVEN THEN SOME PEOPLE WERE LEFT OUT.

HERE TAKE MY ORNAMENTS. OF WHAT USE ARE THEY IF MY PEOPLE LIVE IN MISERY.

IN THE END ONLY ONE MAN WAS LEFT OUT.

I AM SORRY THAT NOTHING IS LEFT WITH ME EXCEPT THE CLOTHES I AM WEARING. PLEASE ACCEPT THEM.

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IN THIS MANNER, EVERY FIVE YEARS, HARSHA GAVE AWAY ALL HIS WEALTH TO THE SCHOLARS, THE PRIESTS AND THE POOR.

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AFTER COMPLETING HIS STUDIES, HUEN TSANG RETURNED TO CHINA. HE CARRIED WITH HIM MEMOIRS OF HIS VISIT WHICH BECAME WORLD FAMOUS AS TESTIMONIES OF OUR GREAT ANCIENT HERITAGE.

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JALLIANWALA BAGH
KALPANA CHAWLA
KRISHNADEVA RAYA
LACHIT BARPHUKAN
LALITADITYA
MANGAL PANDE
NOOR JAHAN
PADMINI
PANNA AND HADI RANI
PAURAVA AND ALEXANDER
PRITHVIRAJ CHAUHAN
RAJA BHOJA
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RANA PRATAP
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SAMUDRA GUPTA
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SHIVAJI
SHIVAJI, TALES OF
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FA HIEN
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GURU GOBIND SINGH
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RABINDRANATH TAGORE
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RAMANUJA
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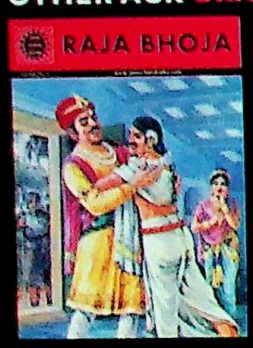
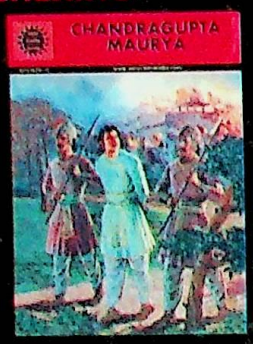
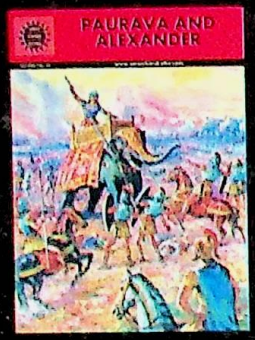
HARSHA

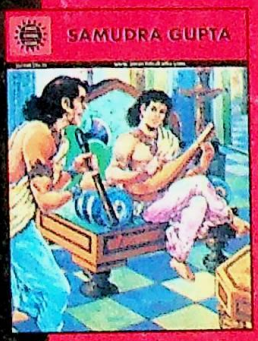
Starting off as the ruler of tiny Thaneshwar, Harsha (7th century AD) rose to become the powerful monarch of the kingdom of Kanauj. He avenged the wicked assassination of his elder brother and the cowardly abduction of his sister. His biographer Bana Bhatta and the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang were unanimous in their praise of this learned king, whose fame did much to create a glowing image of India in lands far away.

OTHER ACK BRAVEHEARTS:









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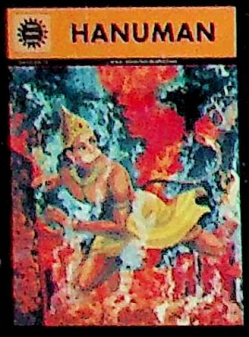

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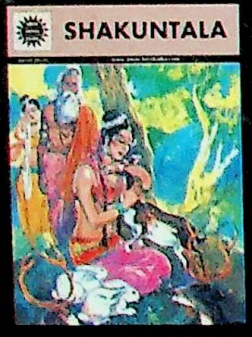

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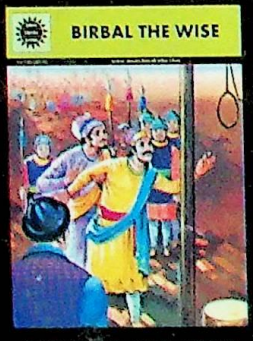

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